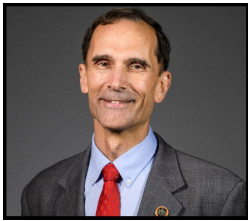
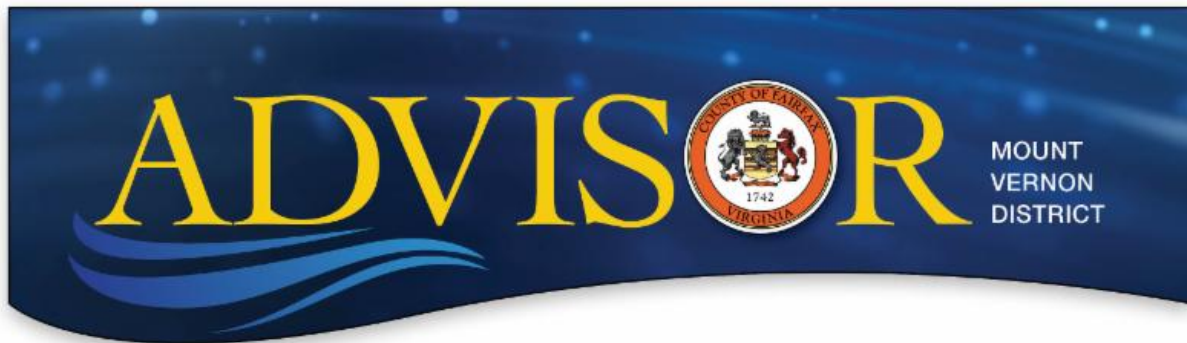


Happy Holidays! December 2018



Family and friends, stuffing and turkey, warm hearts and cold noses – whatever you are thankful for this holiday season, take time to reflect and share your memories and blessings. There are many **worthwhile non-profits** in our community that provide food, shelter, financial assistance and more each day of the year to those most in need in our community. Read the [Connection Newspapers "Giving Locally"](#) for a list of the region's non-profits and consider **giving of your time, talents and/or treasures**.

The last few weeks have been very busy for **TEAM MVD**! We hosted our first **Environment Expo: Saving the Earth One Person at a Time** and our **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tour de Mount Vernon** Community Bike Ride. Both events connected residents and visitors to the **beauty, diversity and heritage** of the Mount Vernon District. Last night, we kicked off the holiday season with our **Holiday Open House**. Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate with us! Read more about these great events below. Mark your calendars for the **32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Town Meeting on February 2, 2019**, which is right around the corner.

This month our office also welcome's **Sally Kidalov and Anna Smith** as Staff Aides. Sally brings to this position experience **in local and State government**, as well as private sector experience. Sally earned a BA in Criminal Justice from San Francisco State University and a MA in **Higher Education Leadership and Policy** from California State University, Sacramento. She has enjoyed seeing the sights in Virginia and Washington, D.C. Anna will focus on **land use issues** and **community planning**, while Sally will be engaged in **transportation** and **zoning issues**. Anna Smith is a recent graduate of the University of Virginia with a degree in **Urban & Environmental Planning**. She has **lived in the Mount Vernon District her whole life**, and is excited to put her education to work in the community she grew up in. Next time you stop by the office or see us at a community event, **please be sure to welcome them!**

I encourage you to attend the **Police Civilian Review Panel Public Forum** this coming Monday, **December 10, 2018** from 7 – 9 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center. Attendees will learn how to **initiate the complaint process**, who will investigate complaints, what to expect once a complaint is filed, and receive a 2018 update on Panel activity. The **Independent Police Auditor** will also be present to explain the Auditor's role in oversight. This is an excellent opportunity to **engage the Panel** with your questions about the process. A **highlight** of the evening will be meeting the **Panel's newest member, Col. Gregory Gadson**, Mount Vernon resident and former Garrison Commander at Fort Belvoir.

Finally, it is with heavy hearts that we **say goodbye** to several County Board members who are not seeking re-election next year. **Chairman Sharon Bulova and Supervisors Linda Smyth and John Cook** have been instrumental in their **decades long service** to the County. It will be a busy year as we prepare for their departure and to **welcome new members**. I wish my colleagues well as they re-focus on their families, enjoy life outside of the Board and pursue new opportunities **to engage with their communities**. Wishing you and yours a very **merry, healthy and safe holiday season** and new year!

Respectfully yours in public service,

Dan Storck  
Supervisor, Mount Vernon District  
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors



*Welcome Anna Smith and Sally Kidalov!*

[Visit our Website](#)

## District Events

Our office hosted two very successful events in November. **Watch the videos** below and click the links to read more about them!

### Environment Expo: Saving the Earth One Person at a Time



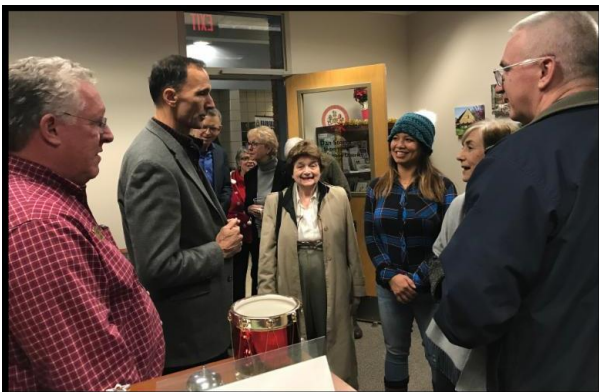
[Read more about the Expo...](#)

### 3rd Annual Tour de Mount Vernon



[Read more about the Tour...](#)

**And, then we held the HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE!**





**Thank you** to everyone who joined us last evening for the **annual Holiday Open House**. We appreciated **connecting with the Mount Vernon community** and spreading holiday cheer. The coat and blanket drive was a huge success, **filling 4 - 6 ft. wardrobe boxes!** Thank you to all who contributed to the NOVA Relief effort.

## In the News

### "Consequences of the Badge" Mental Health Awareness

**Chief Roessler** was recently interviewed by Doreen Gentzler for **NBC 4's Changing Minds series**, spotlighting mental health awareness. The story highlighted Chief Roessler's recent roll call video "Consequences of the Badge", focusing on **mental health and suicide prevention**. [Read and watch on NBC 4...](#)



### Covanta Fairfax Partnering with Community

Covanta Fairfax and the Fairfax County Department of Public Works, in partnership with **American Legion Post 177**, have **launched a U.S. flag retirement program** to reverently dispose of old, worn American flags. While many veteran organizations have **flag collection programs** in place, the quantity of retired American flags they receive can be overwhelming. Alarming, County employees have also been finding an increasing number of **improperly disposed flags** in the waste stream. [Read more on Fort Hunt Herald...](#)

### OMVHS Rejuvenation Moves Forward with Playground Donation

On Friday, November 30, 2018, the **National Association of Counties Foundation** for the Improvement of Public Services and the U.S. Communities Foundation presented a check to Fairfax County in the **amount of \$50,000**. The money is designated for the construction of **playground equipment** to be built at the **renovated Original Mount Vernon High School site**.



### Collingwood Lights Wins the Great Christmas Light Fight

The rest of the country is now aware of what locals have long known: **Bill and Jan Vaughan's Christmas** display at 1601 Collingwood Road is **simply the best**. The 'Collingwood Lights' won the season premier of **ABC's "The Great Christmas Light**

## Upcoming Events

- [December Library Events](#)
  - [December & January Lorton Volunteer Fire Department CPR Classes](#)
  - Dec 7: [FCCPTA's Education Survey Closes](#)
  - Dec 8: [Laurel Hill Park Clean Up](#) – 9 a.m.
  - Dec 8: [Urban Design Guidelines Workshop - Richmond Highway Corridor](#) - 10 a.m.
  - Dec 8: [Workhouse Arts Center Winterfest & Second Saturday Art Walk](#)
  - Dec 10: [Police Civilian Review Panel 2018 Public Forum](#) - 7 p.m.
  - Dec 11: [South County Federation Meeting](#) - 7:30 p.m.
  - Dec 12: [FCDOT Public Meeting: Lorton & Silverbrook Roads Intersection](#) – 6:30 p.m.
  - Dec 13: [The Match Game - Volunteering With Passion and Purpose](#) – 1:30 p.m.
  - Dec 13: [Mary Thonen Richmond Highway Beautification Awards and Open House](#) - 4 p.m.
  - Dec 15: [Deadline Public Feedback Consolidated Community Funding Pool \(FY 2021 – 2022\)](#)
  - Dec 18: [DMV2GO at Sherwood Hall Library](#) - 9 a.m.
  - Dec 19: [Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations Meeting](#) – 8 p.m.
  - Dec 24 - 25: County Government Offices will be closed for the Winter Holiday
  - Jan 1: County Government Offices will be closed for New Year's Day
  - Jan 9: [EQAC Annual Public Hearing](#) – 7:30 p.m.
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## Community Champions

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### Introducing Mount Vernon District BACs

**Diane Watson** is one of Mount Vernon District's newest Boards, Authorities and Commissions Members, serving on the **Fairfax Area Commission on Aging**. The Commission is a body of 12 volunteers appointed by elected officials of Fairfax County, Falls Church and the City of Fairfax. The **Federal Older Americans Act** mandates that local agencies on aging have **community advisory committees**. The Commission on

Aging is the Fairfax Area on Aging's Community Advisory Committee. Commissioners advocate for the **needs of older adults** and tap their potential to **enrich the community**. The Commission advises the Agency on Aging on developing and **coordinating community services**, policies, programs and actions affecting older adults in the Fairfax Area.

The Commissioners **welcome community input** and invite all to attend their monthly meetings from 1-3 p.m. on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month**, except August. Meeting locations are listed in the **Golden Gazette** each month.

Diane has been a **Physical Therapist for 47 years**, 33 of which were in the Home Care setting that allowed her to see and hear concerns aging adults have encountered over the years. She **loves working with older adults**, and now as one, wants to safely age in place as long as possible. Diane would appreciate hearing your concerns and ideas so please connect with her by email: [peppi114@yahoo.com](mailto:peppi114@yahoo.com) or phone: 703-843-7073.

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### Elly Doyle Park Service Awardee

Mount Vernon volunteer, **Michael Applegate**, was recognized, among others, for **outstanding volunteerism** by the Fairfax County Park Authority. During a ceremony on November 16, Mike received the "Elly Doyle Service Award" for his efforts in **maintaining and improving the grounds and mountain biking trails** in a large portion of Laurel Hill Park - in the Apple Orchard

and Equestrian Center areas. He works an average of 30 hours per week on the **five-mile trail network** - mowing, trimming trees, inspecting and fixing storm damage, improving trail surface and drainage, supervising contractors and scout projects, advising staff on improvements in processes and alterations to facilities to **improve the visitor experience**.



Regardless of the weather, Mike donates an **exceptional amount of time** to care of the park at all times of the year. Beyond the park itself, Mike presents an **excellent role model** for us all, **especially the children** who see him and know him in the park, teaching them, by example, the **difference volunteerism can make** and the importance of community service to the parks. [Watch the video about Mike's service...](#)

*Story and photo by Susan Laume. Susan leads a Park Volunteer Team at Laurel Hill Park, inspired by Mike Applegate's service, information about the team and events can be found on Facebook - [Laurel Hill Park Ents](#).*

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## Changing Lives Pawfectly Deliciously

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New non-profit, **Pawfectly Delicious Dog Treats**, started in the Mount Vernon community to provide **meaningful work and job training** to disabled young adults in the local community. **Bryan Tuccillo and his mother Anne** began to bake **dog treats** in their home kitchen soon after Bryan aged-out of special education services in the County. Bryan is 26 years old and has Mitochondrial Disease, a degenerative neurological condition. After struggling to find **meaningful employment** after high school, Bryan and his mother teamed up to provide



**employment opportunities for young adults** who were yearning for purpose and to make a **contribution in their community**. The dough is prepared in partnership with the **Culinary Arts Team at the Pulley Career Center**, and each treat is baked and packed in the kitchen at **St. Luke's Episcopal Church** by a team of volunteers and young adults who are differently abled. The **heart that is placed in each package** represents the **unconditional love** between an owner and their dog and for the support of the group's mission through a purchase of "Pawfectly Delicious" Dog Treats. [Watch the video of Pawfectly Delicious at work...](#)

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## Saving the Environment

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### Adjusting to New Recycling Realities

What happens to your **recycled items** these days? That's a good question as the **worldwide recycling market** has changed dramatically in recent months, especially due to "**Operation National Sword**" in China. Here in the County, the local third-party recycling processor says nearly **30 % of material received is actually trash**. To our part in this worldwide process, we need everyone to focus on **reducing the amount of contaminated materials** placed in recycling bins. There are five ways you can help stop the practice of "**wishful recycling**" - placing items in the recycling bin because you think it will probably be recycled. [NewsCenter has all the details here.](#)



**Watch the video!**



## Sustainable Communities Newsletter Launched

You may have heard of the **Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services** (DPWES)– it's a mouthful, we know – but do you know what they do? DPWES builds infrastructure and provides critical services to make the County a **sustainable place** for residents to live, work and play. While their work often goes unnoticed, they have **interesting stories to share**, and now there is a way to learn about them. Introducing a new e-newsletter, **Sustainable Communities**, curated from various sources and presented conveniently in one place – **your inbox**.



Sustainable Communities will include **stories about the infrastructure** that supports the growing population, and the systems built to **protect water quality** and enhance the environment. To learn more and subscribe, [visit](#).

## Mount Vernon Station Officers in Our Community



**MPO Robert Urps, Detective Veva Wallace, 1Lt. Wilson Lee, and Explorers from Post 2252** participated in the Northern Virginia **Project GiveBack** in November at the **Gum Springs Community Center**. They assisted in assembling **food baskets** and distributing them to families for the Thanksgiving Holiday Season.



The Station has partnered with FCPS for **Fairfax P.A.L.S.** at **Riverside and Fort Hunt ES**. Officers join students for lunch, assisting with things like opening milk, **spending time with the children** and engaging them in conversation or **answering questions**. By having officers in the lunch rooms on a consistent basis, the hope is that children will see and remember **officers as community members**.

# Supporting Our Seniors

## Find Fun and Fitness Ideas for the 50+ Crowd

The **Fairfax County Park Authority** launched a web page designed just for county **residents age 50 or older**. It's a great place for those who have dedicated themselves to career and family to find ways to finally put a little focus on themselves. The **50+ Engage-Connect-Play** portal provides **one-stop shopping** for information on **Fitness and Wellness**, Arts & Learning, Gardening & Adventure, and Giving Back. It's a great online stop geared towards Baby Boomers and active seniors.



Visit **Fifty Plus** and look for information on **classes and entertainment**, staying well or gardening programs, **outdoor recreation** and family fun, and ways to give back to the community that will hold special appeal for baby boomers. Learn how you can put your expertise to **work as a volunteer**, join a golf league, find a dog park, take a trip, catch a show or simply find a **new place to stroll** on a Sunday afternoon.

## Community Information

### Know Someone Who Needs Shelter from the Cold this Winter?

The **Hypothermia Prevention Program** is an integral part of the County's programs to **prevent and end homelessness** that incorporates the collaborative work of area faith communities, civic organizations, businesses and individual volunteers. The program represents a shining example of **collaborative effectiveness** in serving the **critical needs** of those experiencing homelessness when they are in most danger of exposure to cold weather.



Each year, all three County emergency shelters that serve single adults activate a **"no-turn-away" policy** from **December 1-March 31**, known as the **Winter Seasonal program**. "No-turn-away" is also implemented outside of that timeframe based on **temperature and weather conditions**. [Read more...](#)



### Winterfest & Second Saturday Art Walk

The Workhouse Arts Center celebrates **Winterfest** and **Second Saturday Art Walk** on **Saturday, December 8** from 6 - 9 p.m, with select activities taking place throughout the day. Whether it's your first visit or your hundredth, Second Saturday is the perfect time to meet nearly **100 Resident and Associate Artists**, creating art in the studios or exhibiting in **12 campus galleries**. Experience art exhibitions in nine galleries of the region's finest sculpture, painting, glass, ceramics and fiber art works. The December Second Saturday includes new exhibitions by our **Featured Workhouse Artists**, as well as **wonderful holiday programming** as part of the **regional Winterfest event**. For more information and other activities [visit](#).

### Police Civilian Review Panel

Join the **Police Civilian Review Panel** at its **2018 Public Forum** at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center! The Panel welcomes the opportunity for you to attend their 2018 Public Forum on **December 10, 2018, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** At the Public Forum, you will learn how to initiate the **complaint process**, who will investigate complaints, what to expect once a complaint is filed, and **receive a 2018 update on Panel activity**. The Independent Police Auditor will also be present to **explain the Auditor's role** in oversight. You will have the **opportunity to engage** the Panel with your questions about the process. For more information, [visit](#).



## Urban Design Guidelines Workshop - Richmond Highway Corridor

The County is creating **Urban Design Guidelines for the Richmond Highway corridor**. The Guidelines provide details on many of the recommendations described in the Embark Comprehensive Plan including the **appearance and function** of streets, parks and plazas, and **other elements of the public realm**. To kick this project off, the County **invites everyone in the community** to participate in an **Urban Design Workshop** to share their design ideas for Richmond Highway.

### Event Details:

Saturday, December 8, 2018

10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Walt Whitman Middle School Cafeteria, 2500 Parkers Ln, Alexandria, VA 22306

For more information, [visit](#).

## Are You Eligible for Medicaid? You Might Be Now

**Good news!** Virginia has **expanded the list** of those who are **eligible for Medicaid** and applications are now being accepted for coverage, which will **go into effect Jan. 1, 2019**. Even if you were not previously eligible for Medicaid, you may now be able to enroll if you meet the **revised program requirements**. According to the Commonwealth Institute's latest projections as of January 2018, **an additional 28,000 individuals** in the County may be eligible for Medicaid. [Read more in this NewsCenter story...](#)



## STEM Opportunities for Youth

[STEM Opportunities for Youth](#) is a new County sponsored website for **youth of all ages** to find programs offered by County parks, libraries, community centers, as well as nonprofit organizations and local universities.

It's a one-stop, **easy-to-navigate portal** that includes an interactive, searchable map and calendar with links to programs offering youth the chance to **learn a new skill** or get **hands-on experience** in STEM. These extracurricular activities help youth connect to what they are **learning in school** about math, science, and technology and may inspire their interest in **future educational or career choices**.

## Mason Observatory Open to the Public

**Mason's astronomical observatory**, located atop Research Hall on Mason's Fairfax Campus, houses one of the **largest diameter telescopes** among college campuses in the mid-Atlantic region. **Night sky observing sessions** led by faculty and graduate students are preceded by **informative talks**. Sessions **open to the general public** are held during the fall and spring semesters, weather permitting. Please check the website for the **observing schedule** and/or cancellation information. Observing sessions typically last approximately 1.5 hours. [Website](#) or phone 703-993-9558.



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## Important Safety Messages

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### Christmas Tree Care

**Living Christmas trees** are an option for those who want to enjoy their tree as a landscape feature throughout the year, not just for the holiday season. They, however, require **special treatment**. Living trees in containers or balled and burlaped should **not be carried by the stem**, even though they may be unwieldy. It is important also to **allow the tree to adjust** to being in a heated room



by leaving it in an unheated garage or shed for several days prior to bringing it inside and for several days before bringing it back outside. Your tree also needs **plenty of water** while indoors. [Read more...](#)



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## Boards, Authorities and Commissions

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Help **serve your community** by serving on a Fairfax County Board, Authority or Commission. Please ask your friends, neighbors and community members if they are willing to help serve Fairfax County. Supervisor Storck has vacancies on:



### **Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board**

This Board is responsible for ensuring and overseeing the establishment and operation of local mental health, intellectual disabilities, and substance abuse programs.

### **Health Care Advisory Board**

This Board is responsible for a periodic review of a comprehensive health plan for the County; to initiate an on-going health care information process in coordination with local, regional, State and Federal agencies.

### **Health Systems Agency Board**

The purpose of this Board is to improve quality of the health services provided them, both private and public, while restraining increases in the cost of providing health services.

Volunteering on these committees **increases citizen participation** in our District. If you are interested in serving on a county board, authority, commission, or committee (BAC), please provide a current résumé to [Donna.Slaymaker@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Donna.Slaymaker@fairfaxcounty.gov). For more information, please download the [brochure](#) for a brief guide to BACs, or learn more on the County [website](#).



*Mount Vernon District Staff: Abdul Shaban, Anna Smith, Christine Morin, Supervisor Dan Storck, Donna Slaymaker, Camela Speer & Sally Kidalov.*

### **November 2018 Activities:**

- Phone calls: 866
- Meetings: 38
- Hosted meetings: 21

### **Office Hours:**

Monday - Wednesday, Friday:  
8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

**Stay Connected:**

Mount Vernon Governmental Center  
2511 Parkers Lane  
Mount Vernon, VA 22306  
703-780-7518 (TTY 711) 703-780-1491 (fax)  
[mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov)

Second Saturday Each Month (except August)  
Lorton Library: 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
MV District Office: 12:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.  
Walk-ins and by appointment

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Mount Vernon District Office | 703-780-7518  
[MTVernon@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:MTVernon@fairfaxcounty.gov) | [FairfaxCounty.gov/MountVernon](https://FairfaxCounty.gov/MountVernon)

STAY CONNECTED

